

At page 16, line 26, please delete "extruded" and insert --processed--.

At page 17, line 8, please delete "extrusion".

At page 17, line 11, after "then", please insert --axially--.

At page 18, line 12, please delete "extrusion".

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (amended) A process for manufacturing components made of fiber-reinforced thermoplastic materials, where a blank (7) formed of [a short, long, and/or endless] fiber (6) and a thermoplastic material is first pre-finished, and [this] said blank (7) is brought into [the] a final form of [the] a component in a negative mold, under pressure, in a hot-forming process, characterized in that the blank (7) is [first] heated to a forming temperature in a heating stage, and then axially pressed into the negative mold (13), [by means of extrusion] thus giving the blank its shape.

2. (amended) A process for manufacturing components which are under [tensile, bending, and/or torsion] stress, made of fiber-reinforced thermoplastic materials, where a blank (7) formed with a fiber proportion of more than 50 volume-% and with at least predominant use of endless fibers and [a] said fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material

is first pre-finished, and [this] said blank is brought into [the] a final form of [the] a component in a negative mold, under pressure, in a hot-forming process, characterized in that the blank (7) is [first] heated to a forming temperature in a heating stage, and then axially pressed into the negative mold (13) [by means of extrusion] thus giving the blank its shape.

3. (twice amended) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that the blank (7) is further pre-finished as rod material and is cut to [the] a plurality of lengths required for [the] a final component before the hot-forming process.

4. (amended) The process according to claim 1 [to 2], characterized in that [endless] the fibers (6) that are endless have [with] a length that corresponds at least to [the] a length of the blank for [the] a final component are used.

5. (amended) The process according to [one of] claim[s] 1 or 2 [to 4], characterized in that said [a] blank (7) composed of layers with different fiber orientation in [its] a lengthwise direction is formed.

6. (amended) The process according to [one of] claim[s] 1 or 2 [to 4], characterized in that [a] the blank (7) is formed from more than one polymer laminate [, e.g. with several layers with a different matrix material and a different arrangement and/or different volume-% proportion and/or different fiber material and/or different lengths of the fibers].

7. (amended) The process according to [one of] claim[s] 1 or 2 [to 6], characterized in that the blank (7) is formed into [the] a final component by means of a push-pull extrusion process.

8. (amended) The process according to [one of] claim[s] 1 or 2 [to 7], characterized in that the blank (7) is heated to a forming temperature of 350-450°C, [for example, in a heating stage,] and then axially pressed into the negative mold (13), where cooling below the glass transition temperature of the thermoplastic material[, e.g. 143°C,] takes place during a post-pressure phase.

9. (amended) The process according to claim 1 or 2 [one of the preceding claims], characterized in that during the hot-forming process, carbon or graphite is used as a release agent.

10. (amended) The process according to claim 1 or 2 [one of the preceding claims], characterized in that [a] the blank (7) made of PAEK (polyarylether ketones) reinforced with carbon fibers (6) is processed.

11. (amended) The process according to [one of] claim[s] 1 or 2 [to 10] characterized in that at least part of the endless fibers (6) run parallel to [the] an axis of the blank (7).

12. (amended) The process according to [one of] claim[s] 1 or 2 [to 11], characterized in that at least a portion of the fibers (6) [have] has an orientation from 0 to 90° in the blank (7).

13. (amended) The process according to [one of] claim[s] 1 or 2 [to 12], characterized in that the fibers (6) have a length of more than 3mm.

14. (amended) The process according to [one of] claim[s] 1 or 2 [to 13], characterized in that the fibers are surrounded by [matrix] said thermoplastic material, covering [the] a surface of the blank (7) during said giving the blank its final shape [extrusion].